



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the
NH Department of Environmental Services

January 2009

The Municipal EcoLink, is a monthly e-bulletin designed to inform you of the latest environmental ideas, trends, grants, rules and more from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES). We respectfully request that the following is read into the minutes of your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well.

Small MS4 General Permit Draft Now Available for Public Comment

The draft small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit is now available for public comment through January 30, 2009. A public meeting will be held January 28 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., with the public hearing from 10:10 a.m. to 12 noon at Portsmouth City Council Chambers, Portsmouth City Hall, 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth. The draft permit requires small MS4s to continue to implement the stormwater management programs required by the previous permit including the six control measures. However, the new permit contains more specific requirements and best management practices for each control measure. Information and the text of the draft permit is available at http://www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/MS4_2008_NH.html. More information on MS4s is available from DES at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/stormwater/news.htm#ms4>.

DES to Host Meeting on Managing and Disposing of Unused Medicine

On January 29, 2009, DES will host an open meeting on state policies for managing and disposing of unused medicine, from 9 a.m. to noon at DES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord. Improper management or disposal of unused medicine can lead to accidental drug poisoning or overdoses, increased opportunities for drug abuse, and/or the contamination of the state's water resources. A goal of the meeting will be to discuss how best to coordinate and develop consistent and effective medicine disposal policies for the state, and how to develop effective outreach programs regarding proper unused medicine disposal practices. If you wish to attend the meeting or would like to submit comments on the [draft document](#) and this topic, please contact Brandon Kernen at (603) 271-0660 or brandon.kernen@des.nh.gov no later than January 16. Written comments submitted prior to January 29 will be shared with attendees of the meeting.

New Federal/State Requirements for Biodiesel

New federal and state requirements for the production and sale of biodiesel in New Hampshire went into effect January 1, 2009. The new legislation will lower costs for smaller companies interested in producing or distributing biodiesel in state, while ensuring stringent fuel quality standards. Effective January 1, 2009, any person who refines, distills, prepares, blends, manufactures, or purchases 10,000 gallons or less of biodiesel in a monthly period will be allowed to obtain an annual license in lieu of bonding with the NH Department of Safety as previously required. However, biodiesel fuel sold or delivered in New Hampshire must meet the strict specification as established by the American Society for Testing and Materials. For more information on licensing requirements, contact Robert Surowiec, NH Dept. of Safety, at (603) 271-1029. For information on fuel quality requirements, contact Barbara Bernstein, DES, at (603) 271-6751.

New General Permit for Auto Salvage Yards in the Works

DES will complete administrative rulemaking this year to establish general permits for auto salvage yards and auto crushers. The general permits will contain terms and conditions for the regulation of all aspects of the operations to assure protection of environment and compliance with existing regulations. Rules will cover requirements for managing fluids such as gasoline, oil, antifreeze and other regulated substances, as well as requirements for managing solid waste, hazardous waste, universal waste, refrigerants and other potential pollutants and regulated substances. To read the full story, please see page 4 of the January/February 2009 issue of *Environmental News* at www.des.nh.gov.

Please send your comments for the editor to editor@des.nh.gov. To receive press releases and other publications of the NH Department of Environmental Services via e-mail, please sign up at www.des.nh.gov/media/enews/index.htm.